SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5309**

		3		8	2		6	
							2	
				3	4		7	8
	8			7		9		
9				2	5	7	3	4
		4		1				
5	9				8			7
2		7		4				
6			3					

TRICKY **B5309**

		6		3		5		
1	4	5				2	6	
			6					5
4		2		9		1		8
	5	3		4				
	2							
7		9						
			5	2	4	7		

To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Made better (8)
8 Suffer from hunger (6)
9 Front of a ship (4)
10 Social insect (3)
11 _ Scott, film director (6)
13 Lingerie (9)
15 Possessing (6)
17 Ernie _, golfer (3)
18 Cipher (4)
19 Most pleasant (6)
20 Weather prediction (8)

DOWN

1 Lacking in caution (9)
2 Of the sea (6)
3 Nudge (4)
4 Or else (9)
5 Fluctuate (4)
6 Rub out (5)
7 Get tender (anag.) (9)
12 Black and white animals (6)
14 Dance hall (5)
15 Finished (4)
16 US state (4)

CHESS

WHITE WINS THE QUEEN

HINT: DIVERT ITS DEFENDER.

Solution: 1. Rf8ch! Rxf8 2. Qxc7.

TARGET

I	M	A
G	R	T
I	O	T

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 16;

Very good 24;

Excellent 31 (or more).

Solution tomorrow.

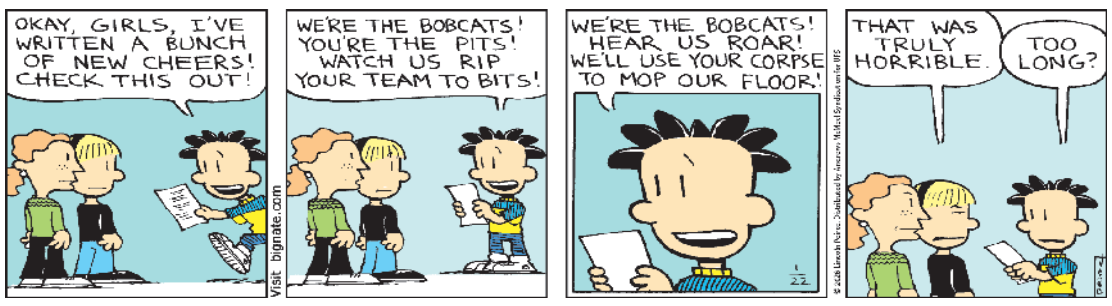
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

NECTARINE

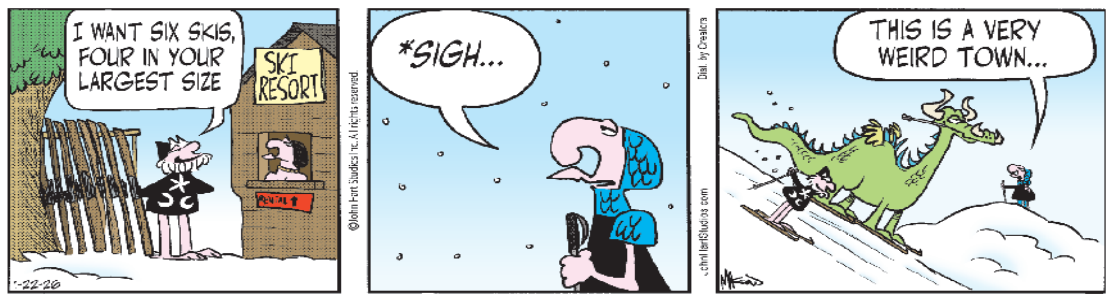
acne, acre, ancient, antic, artic, cairn, cane, canine, cannier, cant, canteen, canter, care, careen, caret, cart, carte, cater, cent, centre, cere, cert, certain, cetane, cite, crane, crate, create, creatin, creatine, cretin, ecarte, enact, enteric, entice, enticer, entrance, erect, erica, nacre, narc, nectar, NECTARINE, nice, nicer, niece, race, react, recant, recent, recit, recite, rice, tannic, terce, tierce, trace, trance, trice

THE METRO FUNNIES

BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE


OKAY, GIRLS, I'VE WRITTEN A BUNCH OF NEW CHEERS! CHECK THIS OUT!
WE'RE THE BOBCATS! YOU'RE THE PITS! WATCH US RIP YOUR TEAM TO BITS!
WE'RE THE BOBCATS! HEAR US ROAR! WE'LL USE YOUR CORPSE TO MOP OUR FLOOR!
THAT WAS TRULY HORRIBLE.
TOO LONG?
Visit bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART


I WANT SIX SKIS, FOUR IN YOUR LARGEST SIZE
SKI RESORT
*SIGH...
THIS IS A VERY WEIRD TOWN...
©Johnny Hart Studios Inc. All rights reserved.
1-22-26

BABY BLUES

I CAN'T FIND MY SPIDER-MAN UNDERWEAR!
THEY'RE IN THE WASHER! WEAR SOME PLAIN ONES!
MY BUTT FEELS POWERLESS.
YOU SHOULD KEEP SOME THOUGHTS TO YOURSELF.

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	06:04pm	05:31pm	06:09pm	05:30pm	05:36pm	06:05pm
Sunrise	07:12am	07:07am	07:16am	06:58am	07:14am	07:23am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow			Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook	Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	9	21	PM Rain	64	4	14	Mostly Sunny	5	16	Partly Cloudy
Hyderabad	6	26	PM Showers	45	4	22	Mostly Sunny	6	21	Mostly Sunny
Islamabad	8	17	PM Rain	49	4	11	Rain	5	15	Mostly Sunny
Lahore	11	21	Mostly Cloudy	80	4	15	AM Showers	5	16	Partly Cloudy
Multan	6	19	PM Rain	68	4	15	Sunny	4	15	Partly Cloudy
Peshawar	6	13	Rain	60	4	11	Partly Cloudy	4	15	Mostly Cloudy
Quetta	-9	2	Partly Cloudy	79	-7	-2	AM Snow	-3	7	Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD
WEAKENS

(WEAKENS: WEE-kins: Reduces the strength of.)

Average mark 20 words
Time limit 30 minutes

Can you find 25 or more words in WEAKENS?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD — HITHERTO

heir	tort
hero	torte
hire	tote
hither	toter
hitter	trio
hoer	trite
hotter	troth
their	riot
throe	rite
tier	rote
tire	roti
titer	other
tithe	otter
tore	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

2 Specific
9 Crayon
10 Rope
11 Lots
13 Mimes
14 Margarine
16 Brown
19 Laid
20 Halt
21 League
22 Deserted.

DOWN

1 Scrambled
3 Paper
4 Eyed
5 Commander
6 From
7 Intend
8 Cassettes
12 Karate
15 Image
17 Oils
18 Chat.

METRO EVENTS

DISCUSSIONS

A discussion on '25 Years of Urdu Fiction' is organised at PMA House, Garden Road, at 5:30pm.

An evening with Dr Abdullah, a US-based poet, scientist and social worker, is organised at Haseena Moin Hall, Ahmed Shah Building, Arts Council of Pakistan, at 6pm.

CONVOCATION

The 29th convocation of Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology is organised at Pakistan Air Force Museum at 6:30pm.

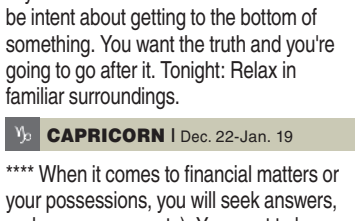
EXHIBITIONS

Frames – Har Project Ek Kahani, a showcasing of student projects on fashion, documentaries, artwork, photography, films and more, is organised at Media Science Department, Iqra University, Airport campus, at 10am.

The '8th International Digital Printing & Signage Exhibition' is underway at Hall 6, Expo Centre, from 11am to 7pm.

FESTIVAL

The opening ceremony of 'Awami Theatre Festival 2026' is held at the Arts Council of Pakistan at 7pm.



HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

**** Conversations with friends and members of groups will be lively today (to put it mildly). Someone might be intent on convincing you to agree with them. Or perhaps you are the one who is coming on like gangbusters. Either way, lighten up! Tonight: Enjoy solitude.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

**** You might use today's astrological influences to have an intellectual discussion with an authority figure. From your point of view, the purpose of this discussion will be to clarify or improve something. You might suggest the need for taking something back down to the basics to rebuild it once again. Tonight: Talk to a friend.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

*** You might be on your soapbox sharing your political or religious ideas today -- you can't resist it. Think twice about what you say, because you will have the capacity to influence others with your persuasive force. (You might be in opposition to someone.) Tonight: You're in the limelight!

CANCER | June 21-July 22

*** Financial discussions or discussions about inheritances or how to divide shared property will be intense today. Either you or someone else will be emphatic about what they want to achieve. Don't steamroll over anyone. Take a breath and remember to listen. Tonight: Learn and discover.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

*** Interactions with partners and close friends will be intense today because people (including you) are obsessed about something. They insist on being heard. You might be doing this, or you might attract someone to you who will be doing it to you. Tread carefully! Tonight: Check financial matters.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

**** You can accomplish a lot today because you're determined and motivated. Don't let your energy be scattered in heated discussions. Instead, use your efforts to improve something or make something better, even if you have to go back to basics. Tonight: Listen and be cooperative.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

*** Parents should be gentle with their kids today to avoid escalating tension by harping on something or coming on too strong. Today there's a tendency for everyone to be obsessed about something, which is out of balance. This also applies to romantic discussions. Take it easy. Tonight: Work to get better organized.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

**** This is a good day to make improvements to bathrooms, plumbing, recycling and garbage areas. Clean up things and make them better, but remember to listen to input from others. "A leader who refuses to listen will eventually be surrounded by people with nothing to say." (Andy Stanley.) Tonight: Be friendly and socialize.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

**** All your conversations with others today will be profound and intense because Mercury is lined up with Pluto in your House of Communications. You'll be intent about getting to the bottom of something. You want the truth and you're going to go after it. Tonight: Relax in familiar surroundings.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

**** When it comes to financial matters or your possessions, you will seek answers, perhaps even secrets). You want to know what's happening. You want to know the subtext of something. What led up to this moment? Tonight: Share your opinions.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

**** You'll have no trouble sharing your ideas with anyone today, because four planets are in your sign and Mercury is lined up with Pluto, lending emphasis to your words. You might want to lighten up. Nevertheless, your investigative mind will discover something. Tonight: Respect your moneymaking ideas.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

**** This is the classic day for secrets to be revealed. And who better than you to find them? The Moon is in your sign today giving you a slight advantage over all the other signs, which means you have the edge! Some of you will have an epiphany. Tonight: Ask the universe for a favor.

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

It happened in Dead Man's Gulch

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 5
♥ 8 6
♦ A Q J 10 9 4 2
♣ 3 2

WEST
♠ Q 7 4
♥ Q J 10 5 3
♦ 6 3
♣ 7 6 4

EAST
♠ J 10 8 6 2
♥ 9 4 2
♦ K 8
♣ 9 8 5

SOUTH
♠ A K 3
♥ A K 7
♦ 7 5
♣ A K Q J 10

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
2 ♣	Pass	3 ♦	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
6 NT			

Opening lead -- queen of hearts.

It happened in Dead Man's Gulch many years ago. Twelve good men and true listened attentively to the evidence. It seems that East -- in a fit of rage in the middle of a hand -- suddenly pulled out his six-shooter and let his partner have it. East was promptly hauled into court before judge and jury and tried for murder.

The facts were not disputed. The defendant told his story, which was confirmed by the two other surviving players as well as two kibitzers.

It was agreed that South got to six notrump as shown. The fact that six diamonds was laydown was not even discussed.

The deceased led the queen of hearts. Declarer won with the king and saw that he could not make the slam without making use of dummy's diamonds. So he led a diamond and finessed the queen.

The defendant smoothly played the eight, and dummy's queen won the trick! East had concluded that he could not defeat the slam unless South could be induced to take another diamond finesse, in which case dummy's diamonds would become useless.

It is not possible to state definitively whether East's ingenious play would have succeeded. After the diamond queen held, South cashed five club tricks. The deceased followed to three rounds of clubs, next discarded a heart and then -- a diamond!

South immediately led a diamond, but even before he could play the ace and catch East's king, three shots rang out.

Now, if you were in the jury box and had to cast a ballot, how would you vote? Guilty? Or would you say it was justifiable homicide?

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5308

4	5	8	9	2	3	6	1	7
6	1	3	5	8	7	9	2	4
7	9	2	6	1	4	8	5	3
1	2	5	7	4	6	3	8	9
9	6	4	2	3	8	5	7	1
8	3	7	1	5	9	4	6	2
3	7	9	8	6	2	1	4	5
2	8	1	4	9	5	7	3	6
5	4	6	3	7	1	2	9	8

Tricky — B5308

7	2	3	5	8	6	1	4	9
5	1	6	4	9	2	3	7	8
9	8	4	7	3	1	2	6	5
6	4	7	3	1	8	9	5	2
1	3	2	9	7	5	6	8	4
8	5	9	6	2	4	7	3	1
3	9	8	2	4	7	5	1	6
2	6	1	8	5	3	4	9	7
4	7	5	1	6	9	8	2	3